

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 SWF-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 NIC-01 COME-00 DRC-01 /163 W

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R 130610Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 503

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PINT, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH HARVEST PROBLEMS GET HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION

REF: WARSAW 4591

PASS B.G. BROWN/FAS/USDA/WASH

ROME FOR ILLING

SUMMARY:

1. THE HARVEST, DELAYED NEARLY A MONTH BY POOR WEATHER, IS
CONTINUING TO ARREST HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION, WITH MORE THAN
THE USUAL EXHORTATION WITH A MAXIMUM EFFORT BY ALL CONCERNED.

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PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ HAS ISSUED TWO SPECIAL DIRECTIVES CONCERNING IT, AND, THE PRIMATE OF POLAND, IN AN UNUSUAL MOVE, HAS ISSUED A "COMMUNIQUE", IN EFFECT, AUTHORIZING THE FAITHFUL TO WORK ON SUNDAYS. THE MEDIA, DRAMATIZING THE HARVEST AS A "RACE AGAINST TIME", ARE PUBLISHING REGULAR EXHORTATIONS FOR A MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION FROM ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. REPORTING EMPHASIZES THE PARTICIPATION OF SOLDIERS, VACATIONERS, CITY DWELLERS, AND YOUTH. SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, WAS PROCLAIMED A DAY OF "YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION" IN THE FIELDS. AGED AND INVALID FARMERS ARE SINGLED OUT AS ESPECIALLY IN NEED OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. SPECIAL APPEALS ARE ALSO ADDRESSED TO RURAL CITIZENS TO UTILIZE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL SECTOR, SUCH AS NEWLY EXPANDED DAY CARE CENTERS, AND TO DEVOTE A FULL EFFORT ON SUNDAYS.
END SUMMARY.

2. PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ'S LATEST DIRECTIVE, ISSUED AUGUST 6, AUTHORIZES ENTERPRISES ENGAGED IN GRAIN PURCHASE AND HANDLING TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE HARVEST AND ALLOWS THE MINISTRY OF FOOD INDUSTRY AND PURCHASE TO EXCEED THE WAGE FUND PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR. IT ALSO ALLOCATES 5 MILLION ZLOTYS EACH TO THIS MINISTRY AND TO THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE CENTER TO BE USED FOR PAYING BONUSES.

3. CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI JOINED THE EFFORT WITH A "COMMUNIQUE" PUBLISHED IN SLOWO POWSZECHNE ON AUGUST 10. CITING THE COMPLICATIONS DUE TO BAD WEATHER, THE COMMUNIQUE DECLARES THAT SINCE A SUCCESSFUL HARVEST IS IN THE COMMON INTEREST, IT IS "ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED" FOR THE FAITHFUL TO WORK IN THE FIELDS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS AS NECESSARY. IT POINTS OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CHURCH CONSIDERS THE QUESTION OF KEEPING THE SABBATH A MATTER OF "GREAT CONCERN", IT HAS "ALWAYS" RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY OF WORKING SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS WHERE "ESSENTIAL FOR THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE LIFE OF THE SOCIETY". IT NOTES FURTHER THAT HOLY SERVICES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN EARLY MORNING AND LATE EVENING HOURS TO FACILITATE ATTENDANCE AND CONCLUDES WITH A CALL TO PRAYER FOR A SUCCESSFUL HARVEST.

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4. COMMENT: THE PRESS IS UNANIMOUSLY BLAMING BAD WEATHER FOR THIS YEAR'S DIFFICULTIES. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MENTION OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS TO WHICH IT DREW ATTENTION LAST SUMMER, SUCH AS INEFFICIENT USE OF EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORT BOTTLENECKS, AND SPARE PARTS SHORTAGES. HOWEVER, A BRIEF ITEM IN TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY'S AUGUST 11 ISSUE SUGGESTS THAT EXPORT COMMITMENTS MAY BE CAUSING TRACTOR SHORTAGES.

5. CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI'S APPEAL IS THE MORE STRIKING IN THAT HE HAD DIRECTED A STRONG ATTACK IN KRAKOW LAST MAY AGAINST THE PARTY'S PRACTICE OF DESIGNATING SEVERAL SUNDAYS A YEAR AS "SOCIAL ACTION/ DAYS TO MOBILIZE PARTY ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS TO WORK ON VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECTS DURING THEIR DAY OF REST. HOWEVER, THE SABBATH WHICH CAN ASSUME ALMOST POLITICAL DIMENSIONS AMONG RURAL FAITHFUL, MAY HAVE BEEN ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH EXIGENCIES OF THE HARVEST. THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL WOULD THEN HAVE THE EFFECT OF AVOIDING A CONTROVERSY AT A TIME WHEN, ACCORDING TO RECENT REPORTS, CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS MAY BE IMPROVING, WHILE ALSO DEMONSTRATING HIS OWN CONTINUING INFLUENCE AMONG THE RURAL FAITHFUL.

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